

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 ORM-01 L-03 AF-06 IO-10

AID-05 OMB-01 /068 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4409

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CSAF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

MAC SCOTT AFB ILL/LGPA/DOOM IMMEDIATE

JCS WASHDC PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER PRIORITY

DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

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COMMAD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, PO

SUBJ: U.S. PARTICIPATION IN ANGOLA REFUGEE AIRLIFT

REF: LISBON 5586 DTG 221911Z SEP 75

SUMMARY: TAP OFFICIAL CONFIRMS URGENCY OF ADDITIONAL U.S.
AIRCRAFT FOR REFUGEES RELIEF AND REQUESTS IMMEDIATE DIVERSION
OF ONE FLIGHT NOW OPERATING BETWEEN NOVA LISBOA AND LISBON
TO NOVA LISBOA-LUANDA RUN. END SUMMARY.

1. DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TAP OPERATIONS IN LISBON (JOSE CASTRO
NORTON) WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING LOGISTICS OF
AIRLIFT REQUESTED OF DAO OFF THAT ONE OF THE TWO U.S. PLANES
INVOLVED IN AIRLIFT BEGIN FLYING IMMEDIATELY BETWEEN NOVA
LISBOA AND LUANDA RATHER THAN TO LISBON IN ORDER TO PERMIT
EVACUATION OF ALL REFUGEES FROM NOVA LISBOA PRIOR TO SELF-
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IMPOSED DEADLINE OF OCTOBER 6.

2. ACCORDING TO NORTON TWO PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE 707S WILL BEGIN NOVA LISBOA-LUANDA AIR SHUTTLE TODAY. ALSO TAP CIVILIAN FLIGHTS OPERATING FROM NOVA LISBOA TO LISBON ARE BEING INCREASED FROM 3 TO 5 PER DAY BEGINNING TODAY.

3. EVEN WITH INCREASE IN PORTUGUESE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN FLIGHTS, NORTON STATES THAT GOP CANNOT EVCUATE BEFORE OCTOBER 6 ALL 35,000 REFUGEES NOW REMAINING IN NOVA LISBOA. HE ESTIMATES THAT WITHOUT AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER O FLIGHTS 5000 WILL BE LEFT ON THAT DATE.

4. ON THIS BASIS NORTON HAS REQUESTED WEST GERMAN REPRESENTATIVE AT AIRPORT THAT ONE GERMAN FLIGHT NOW OPERATING BETWEEN LUANDA AND LISBON BE REROUTED TO NOVA LISBOA-LUANDA RUN. HE FORESEES THAT THIS DIVERSION PLUS THE REROUTING OF ONE U.S. DC-8 TO OPERATE BETWEEN NOVA LISBOA AND LUANDA WILL ACCOMMODATE THE REMAINING 5000 PEOPLE.

5. WITH RESPECT TO GROUND SERVICING IN NOVA LISBOA AND LUANDA, NORTON STATED THAT 14 ADDITIONAL TAP EMPLOYEES WERE RECENTLY SENT TO NOVA LISBOA PERMITTING 24 HOUR PROCESSING OF REFUGEES. HE ALSO FORESAW NO TAP LABOR PROBLEMS WHICH WOULD PREVENT NORMAL OPERATIONS IN LUANDA. NORTON MENTIONED THAT PORTUGUESE HIGH COMMISSIONER IN ANGOLA HAS OFFERED FACILITIES AT HIS RESIDENCE FOR U.S. CREW AS WELL AS TRANSPORTATION TO AIRPORT.

6. NORTON STATED THAT GOP NOW WAS ESTIMATING A TOTAL AIRLIFT FROM ANGOLA OF 280,000 BEFORE NOVEMBER 11. OF THIS NUMBER 120,000 HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED IN PORTUGAL AND MOST OPTIMISTIC ESTIMATE WAS THAT AT PRESENTLY FORESEEN RATE OF EVACUATION 125,000 MORE WOULD BE TRANSPORTED BY 31 OCTOBER. (ACTUAL RATE OF EVACUATIN AT PRESENT IS 21,000 PER WEEK.) THIS LEAVES 35,000 TO BE TRANSPORTED DURING THE FIRST 11 DAYS OF NOVEMBER. EVEN THIS OPTIMISTIC ESTIMATE ASSUMES CONTINUATION UNTIL NOV. 11 OF ALL FOREIGN FLIGHTS NOW PARTICIPATING IN THE AIRLIFT. THEREFORE, IT IS ESSENTIAL, HE SAID, THAT ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT (PREFERABLY 747) BE CONTRIBUTED AND ADVISED DAO OFF THAT HE WAS CONFIRMING IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL PLANES ALREADY REQUESTED OF THE U.S. BY MAJOR CALDAS.
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7. DAO OFFICER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT EXISTING REQUEST WAS BEING CONSIDERED IN WASHINGTON AND THAT ANY CHANGES IN PROPOSED ROUTING OF AIRCRAFT SHOULD BE REQUESTED THROUGH GOVERNMENT CHANNELS RATHER THAN THROUGH TAP.

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